

AN
ANSWER
TO A
PAMPHLET

CALLED,
The True Protestants Appeal
TO THE
CITY and COUNTRY.

BEING A
VINDICATION
OF THE
Dissenting Protestants

In General; And
Mr. Sheriff Bethell

In Particular.
18 Feb. 1686
By a Truer Protestant.

Courageous Friend, Fellow Citizen and Subject;

I Am glad I have found thee so great an Abhorrer of Popery, but I could have been more glad, hadst thou named some of those many Persons of Quality, thou so boldly mentionest, who had been acquainted with thy Name and Principles, so fully as thy Pen has declared it. If thou art so famous for thy Hatred to the Roman Principles, to Superstition and Innovation, why art thou at the end of thy Pamphlet? And why shouldst thou be afraid to let thy Labours come to a publick Test? They creep into the World like the LADY GREY'S APPARITION, MADAM FANSHAW'S TOUCH, and such like forbidden Fruit: they steal out of the Closets into the Press, and so into the World, flying like Owls through the Dark Corners of the Earth. A shrewd Suspicion we have, that thou art not what thou pretendest to be; such as thou art are most to be suspected for *King-killing Tenets*; and I fancy thou hast got the wit to cry out *Whore first*. *Papists* now rail against *Papists*; crafty are they grown in this Treacherous Age: But we will hope for better things from thee, because thou hast told us in Print, *That many Persons of Quality* (though nameless, and not to be found) *do know thee to be a TRUE CHURCH OF ENGLAND-KING'S-PROTESTANT*. But give me leave to tell thee, *That's an ill Bird that besitts its own Nest*. To lay the Burthen of Royal Blood wholly upon *Dissenting Protestants*, is too great a load for them to bear, since the King's Evidences have so fully discovered, that the *Papists* had a Finger in that Pye, and were too highly concerned in shedding that *Royal and Innocent Blood*. The Parliament strove to *Unite the Dissenters*, thou to *Destroy them*; so much are we beholden to one that calls himself a *Church of England-Kings-Protestant*; whom I imagine to be of *Parson Thompson's Principles*.

Thank

Thank you, dear Friend, that at last you are come to acknowledge a PLOT; but I doubt, if the denying it would have done thee any Kindness, we should rather have had it a *Sham Presbyterian Plot* from thee, (as much as thou seemest to hate it) then a *real Popish Plot*, as Justice GODFREY, Justice PTE, Justice ARNOLD, have so sadly experienc'd it: But I would fain know who they are whom thou reckonest *Common-Wealth Protestants*; doubtless thou meanest our last *Parliament*; for they rais'd the Dust thou speakest of; they were Rigorous to bring the Plotters to Justice, and made Prefaces of Loyalty in all their Addresses; yet what Scribler a Moneth ago durst have taken the freedom to have branded them with such black Reflections as thou hast done.

I never heard that *Presbyterians, Anabaptists, Independants, &c.* refused to take the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy; but rather that they were willing to buckle to any reasonable Command: And I have heard such whom thou labourest to stigmatize with the greatest Guilt, wish well to the King and Kingdom, and pray zealously, and (I believe) heartily for them both.

And lest thou shouldst say, this was written by a *Quaker*, an *Anabaptist*, an *Independent*, or a *Presbyterian*; let me tell thee, as I have a Soul to be saved, I am a *Church of England-King's-Protestant*; which thou pretendedst to be. I reckon my self a *Protestant*, and so do all that know me; and I am known by many Persons of no inconsiderable Quality.

I find its thy greatest Grief, to see that there is more Unity like to be amongst the *Dissenting Protestants*, than ever was heretofore; and I doubt thou art jealous, that if they hold together, such *Church of England-King's-Protestants* as thou art, when weighed in a true *Protestants* Scale, will be found too light in thy Profession, and *Adene Tekel* will be thy most proper Motto, for all such *Papists in Masquerade*.

Thou sayest, "All the Industry imaginable is used to represent such Persons to be the fittest Representatives of the People, who have been in actual Arms against his Majesty and his Royal Father: Nay, as it is credibly reported, one was recommended to a Neighbouring Burrough, who was not only of the Council of State, and had abjured *Charles Stuart*, but had said beyond Sea, at the time of the Murder of the late King, That rather than he should want an Executioner, he would come over and do the Office."

Some are so bold and impudent as to be spatter Mr. Sheriff BETHEL with this Calumny; and they do not stick to say, that he wrote so from beyond the Seas; and why? He is known to be an *absolute Enemy to the bloody-minded Papists*, a Man of a *Sober Life*, a Man of *great parts*, and very Zealous for the King and Kingdom's safety, and all such men must expect to have Thanks returned only by such Pens as thine. Find me out one man that is Vigorous and Active for our safety, and if he escapes this Fate, let me be choak't with *Godfrey's Gravat*. Sir William Waller he is extremely Industrious to preserve the *Protestant Religion*, and the Peace of the Kingdom; What's he in your Opinion? Without doubt a *Heretick*, a *Schismatick*, an *Enemy to the KING*, a *Disturber of Israels Quiet*, a *Dissenter*, or at best but a *Common-Wealth's Protestant*. We doubt not but our present Lord Mayor, being eminently Active and Serviceable for a general Good, shall in a little time have the same particular Thanks from such a *Protestant Pen* as yours is, but alas! such *Eagles* as these are, do not cast an Eye upon every *Rook* or *Jack-Daw*; they mind more lofty things, than such lying Pamphlets; whilst your Tribe is busie like Moths to eat up their Reputation, they are only Solicitous to wrap themselves and us in PEACE here, and in GLORY hereafter.

FINIS.

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